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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**AMEER FLIPPIN**  
4713 Wisconsin Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20032

*Pro se Plaintiff,*

V.

Case: 1:19-cv-01221  
Assigned To : Unassigned  
Assign. Date : 4/25/2019  
Description: FOIA/Privacy Act (I-DECK)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR**  
430 E Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

**U.S. PARKS POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
1100 Ohio Drive SW  
Washington, DC 20242

**U.S. CAPITOL POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
119 D Street NE  
Washington, DC 20510

*Defendants,*

**COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

1. I, *Ameer Flippin* ("*Pro Se Plaintiff*") bring this action against the *U.S. Department of Interior* ("*Defendant*" or "*DOI*"), the *U.S. Parks Police Department* ("*Defendant*"), and the *U.S. Capitol Police Department* ("*Defendant*") to compel compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code ("U.S.C."), Section § 552.

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. The *U.S. Federal District Court for the District of Columbia* has jurisdiction in this matter, under Title 5, U.S.C., Section § 552(a)(4)(B) and Title 28, U.S.C., Section § 1331. *Jurisdictional Venue* is proper pursuant to Title 28, U.S.C., § 1391(e).

### PARTIES

3. *Ameer Flippin*, the pro se plaintiff, is a former “Write-in Candidate for the 2016 U.S. Presidential General Elections,” a former *Candidate for Mayor in 2018*, and a *startup founder at Urban Public Finance*. Presently, Ameer has residency in Washington, DC. The *pro se plaintiff* is presently running a beta-test on several new startup companies associated with vending food concessions and festival-related events on the *National Mall*. Additionally, Ameer has run political campaigns on the *National Mall* in the past where the vending of “bottled water” was implemented with campaign fundraising.

4. The *U.S. Department of Interior*, a Defendant, is an agency of the United States Government which has possession, custody, and control of records of *Police Officers* which I, Ameer Flippin, the pro se plaintiff, seek access. The *U.S. Department of Interior* is headquartered at 430 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20001.

5. The *U.S. Parks Police Department*, a Defendant, is a *law enforcement division* within the *U.S. Department of Interior*, an agency of the United States Government, which has possession, custody, and control of records of *Police Officers* which I, *Ameer Flippin*, the pro se plaintiff,

seek access. *The U.S. Parks Police Department* is located at 1100 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, DC 20242.

6. The *U.S. Capitol Police Department*, a Defendant, is a *law enforcement division* within the United States Government, which has possession, custody, and control of records of *Police Officers* which I, *Ameer Flippin*, the pro se plaintiff, seek access. The *U.S. Capitol Police Department* is located at 119 D Street NE, Washington, DC 20510.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

7. This lawsuit arises out of a **FOIA Request** submitted by *Ameer Flippin*, the pro se plaintiff, to the *U.S. Department of Interior ("DOI")* where records were requested of arresting police officers who were believed to be "*international civilians impersonating police officers*" in uniforms of the *U.S. Parks Police*, a law enforcement division of the "DOI," and the *U.S. Capitol Police*.

8. On April 24th, 2019, I, *Ameer Flippin*, the pro se plaintiff submitted a FOIA Request via the *U.S. Department of Interior* online portal seeking access to the following records:

The FOIA Request reads as follows:

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a) *Please forward all personnel files of the arresting officers in Arrest no. 531848503 which happened on December 30th, 2018. The arresting officers are believed to be 1. Zerbonia, 2. Hilsher, 3. Officer # 0836, and 4. Officer #DI of the US Parks Police and/or the US Capitol Police.*

*Additionally forward:*

1. *All internal information on the Arrest of Ameer Flippin (memos, recordings, reports, etc.)*
  2. *A listing of past arrests by listed officers (past 5 years)*
  3. *Initial Disclosure Request of home address, home/cell phone numbers, bank info. etc.*
  4. *Personal Automobile tags, title, insurance co., etc.*
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9. On April 24th, 2019, the *U.S. Department of Interior* acknowledged receipt of the FOIA Request and advised that the correspondence had been forwarded to the *U.S. Parks Police FOIA Officers*, 1) *Janeen Tyson, 1100 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, DC 20242 and npsfoia@nps.gov*, 2) *Charis Wilson, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225, npsfoia@nps.gov*. I, Ameer Flippin, the pro se plaintiff, have not received any other communications in response to the FOIA Request.

10. A *Substantive Response* from the Defendants is needed in related Case no. 19-mc-00019, *In re: Ameer Flippin*, lodged in *U.S. Federal District Court in the District of Columbia* at the *E. Barrett Prettyman Courthouse located at 333 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001*.

11. In accordance with *Title 5, U.S.C., § 552(a)(6)(A)(i)*, the *U.S. Department of Interior*, the *U.S. Parks Police Department* and the *U.S. Capitol Police Department* are required to comply with a FOIA Request within “*twenty (20) working days*” after the receipt of the request and to notify the Plaintiff, Ameer Flippin, immediately of a *determination*, the records thereof, and any right to an appeal of any adverse determination.

12. In accordance with *Title 5, U.S.C., § 552(a)(6)(A)(i)(ii)*, the *U.S. Department of Interior*, the *U.S. Parks Police Department* and the *U.S. Capitol Police Department* are required to comply with such a Request related to an appeal within “*thirty (30) working days*” after the receipt of the request and to notify the Plaintiff, *Ameer Flippin*, immediately of a determination, the records thereof, and any right to an appeal of any adverse determination.

13. Since the filing of the complaint for Injunctive Relief, the *U.S. Department of Interior*, the *U.S. Parks Police Department*, and the *U.S. Capitol Police Department* have failed to properly:

- (i) Produce the requested records or demonstrate that the requested records are lawfully exempt from production;
- (ii) Notify the Plaintiff of the scope of any responsive records Defendants intend to produce or withhold and the reasons for any withholdings; and/or (iii) inform Plaintiff that it may appeal any adequately specific, adverse determination.

## COUNT I

### VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

#### Title 5, United States Code, Section §552

14. I, *Ameer Flippin*, the pro se plaintiff allege paragraphs 1 through 13 as if fully stated herein.

15. I, *Ameer Flippin*, the pro se plaintiff, am being irreparably harmed by the Defendants' violation of FOIA, and will continue to be irreparably harmed unless all Defendant are compelled to comply with the requirements of the FOI Act.

16. In Order for FOIA's Administrative Exhaustion Requirement to be triggered, the Defendants, the "DOI," the U.S. Parks Police Department, and the U.S. Capitol Police Department were required to make final determinations about the Requests within the time limit set by FOIA. Accordingly, a FOIA determination letter is due before, on and near the date, June 1st, 2019, prior to any scheduled hearings on the FOIA complaint. The Request was expedited considering the time constraints associated with litigation filing deadlines. By or near the date of June 1st, 2019, the U.S. Department of Interior is required to (i) gather and review the requested documents; (ii) determine and communicate to the pro se plaintiff, Ameer Flippin, the scope of any responsive records the Defendants intend to produce or withhold and the reason for any withholdings; and (iii) inform the pro se plaintiff, Ameer Flippin, that it may appeal any adequately specific, adverse determinations. See, e.g. *Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, Federal Election Commission*, 711 F. 3d 180,188-89 (D.C. Cir. 2013).

17. Because the Defendants have not and are not likely to make a Final Determination on the FOIA Request within the time limit set by FOIA, I, Ameer Flippin am deemed to have exhausted the administrative appeal remedies, under Title 5, U.S.C., § 552(a)(6)(C)(i).

Therefore, I, Ameer Flippin, the pro se plaintiff, respectfully MOVE the court through this Complaint for Injunctive Relief and request the court to:

- (1) ORDER the Defendants to conduct searches for any and all records responsive to the FOIA Request and demonstrate that it employed search methods reasonably likely to lead to the discovery of records responsive to the FOIA requests;

- (2) ORDER the Defendant to produce, by a certain date, any and all non-exempt records responsive to the existing FOIA request and any responsive records withheld under a claim of exemption;
- (3) ORDER to enjoin the Defendant from continuing to withhold any and all non-exempt records responsive to the FOIA requests;
- (4) Grant the pro se plaintiff, Ameer Flippin, an award of fees, costs, and any attorney's fees associated with time incurred in this action pursuant to *Title 5, U.S.C., § 552(a)(4)(E)(5)* and any Other Relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Date: April 24th, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

  
/s/ Ameer Flippin

Ameer Flippin, Pro se  
4713 Wisconsin Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
(202) 271-1731  
ameerflippin@mail.com

*Pro se Plaintiff*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 25<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, I filed a copy of the foregoing with the Court and served personally by Hand Delivery all counsel of record, the U.S Office of Attorney General and that I separately served the foregoing on all defendants through the following counsel via hand delivery and/or electronic mail:

William Barr  
U.S. Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
202.727.3400  
civil.feedback@usdoj.gov

David Bernhardt  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
202.208.3100  
feedback@ios.doi.gov

FOIA Officer Janeen Tyson  
FOIA Officer Charis Wilson  
U.S. Parks Police  
1100 Ohio Drive SW  
Washington, DC 20242  
202.610.7500  
npsfoia@nps.gov  
info@nps.gov

U.S. Capitol Police Department  
119 D Street NE  
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opr@uscp.gov  
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/s/Ameer Flippin  
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